241 to the cultivation of sugar beets; the area devoted to their cultivation has again increased in the Khanka Lake area. Tea is supposed to become a new product of the /Russian/ Far East. In 1950 /131/ the [242] Botanical Institute of Leningrad sent an expedition there in order to explore, by attempts at cultivation, the practical possibility of planting tea bushes.

241 433 All the reports mentioned above are only individual pictures of the agricultural film which is being run in the Far East. These pictures show the great strivings of the Soviet Union to use all its power to advance agriculture in these regions. If the grain harvest in the actual Far Eastern area had increased 150 percent in 1947 as compared with 1913 and the potato harvest had even increased 200 percent (Trud, 25 October 1947), this increase in production stands in contrast to an approximately 300 percent increase in population in the same period; accordingly even today the same problems still exist in supplying the population of this area with food, as has been described in the above chapter, since an additional population increase runs parallel to the increase in production, even though the two curves may perhaps have gotten somewhat closer since 1947. The actual Far Eastern regions (not including the Buryat Mongol ASSR and the Chita Oblast) can still be regarded even today as import areas in terms of food. Their dependence on obtaining supplies is alleviated by the increased cultivation of potatoes and soy beans, and import at present is no longer a problem since Manchuria with its agricultural surplus has been brought into the Soviet sphere.

Animal Breeding

231 433 In the livestock-breeding of the Soviet Union Transbaykal assumes a prominent position. While on the average there are 233 cattle to 1,000 persons in the Soviet republic, there are 1,367 cattle to 1,000 persons (1938/39) in the Buryat Mongol ASSR; and while there are 602 sheep and goats per 1,000 persons on the overall average in the USSR, there are here 1,786. The important livestock-breeding areas lie left [232] of the Selenga and right of the Ude. The breeding of better strains is being carried out according to plan by crossing the Mongol cattle with the Simmentaler and by crossing the native sheep with the Rambouillet-Merino. The steppe region left of the Selenga is thus the breeding ground for improved strains. The livestock here is housed for the winter in warm stalls and fed with prepared feed. The horse, which constitutes